

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A multiplex conversion unit comprising four types of circuit packs including a high-speed interface circuit pack, a low-speed interface circuit pack, an add/drop multiplex circuit pack and a connecting circuit pack, wherein:

said low-speed interface circuit pack accommodates one or a plurality of low-speed transmission lines and includes an output section for outputting a low-speed signal containing one or a plurality of time slots received from said low-speed transmission line to a plurality of high-speed interface circuit packs, and a path switch section for selecting one of the low-speed signals input from said high-speed interface circuit packs for each time slot as a low-speed signal to be transmitted to one or a plurality of said low-speed transmission lines accommodated;

said high-speed interface circuit pack accommodates at least a high-speed transmission line and is adapted to output/input a plurality of line signals each containing a predetermined number of time slots transmitted to and received from said high-speed transmission line accommodated, a plurality of line signals input/output by other high-speed interface circuit packs, and a plurality of low-speed signals input/output by said low-speed interface circuit packs, said high-speed interface circuit pack including a time slot assignment section having a first time slot assignment function between a plurality of line signals received from the said high-speed transmission line accommodated and output to other high-speed interface circuit packs on the one hand and the output low-speed signal on the other hand, and a second time slot assignment function between a plurality of line signals input from other high-speed interface circuit packs and transmitted to the high-speed transmission line accommodated on the one hand and the input low-speed signal on the other hand;

said add/drop multiplex circuit pack is adapted to out/input output/input a plurality of line signals input/output by each of said high-speed interface circuit packs

and a low speed signal containing one or a plurality of time slots input/output by each of the low-speed interface circuit packs, said add/drop multiplex circuit pack including a time slot section having the time slot interchange function between a plurality of line signals and a plurality of low-speed signals, and a line switch section having a first line switch function for switching the line signal to be processed by ~~said time slot interchange~~ 30 section and a second ^{line} switch function for switching the time slots of the line signal to be processed by ~~said time slot interchange~~ section using the time slot interchange function of said time slot interchange section;

 said connecting circuit pack is adapted to input/output the low-speed signal input/output by the high-speed interface circuit pack as a low-speed signal input/output by another high-speed interface circuit pack; and

 in a use mode of requiring a time slot assignment function alone, a plurality of high-speed interface circuit packs and a plurality of low-speed interface circuit packs are connected to each other through said connecting circuit pack in such a manner that the low-speed signals input/output by the high-speed interface circuit packs are input/output as low-speed signals input/output by another high-speed interface circuit pack.

2. (Currently Amended) A multiplex conversion unit comprising four types of circuit packs including a high-speed interface circuit pack, a low-speed interface circuit pack, an add/drop multiplex circuit pack and a connecting circuit pack, wherein:

 said low-speed interface circuit pack accommodates one or a plurality of low-speed transmission lines and includes an output section for outputting a low-speed signal containing one or a plurality of time slots received from said low-speed transmission line to a plurality of high-speed interface circuit packs, and a path switch section for selecting one of the low-speed signals input from said high-speed interface circuit packs for each time slot as a low-speed interface circuit pack for each time slot as a low-speed signal to be transmitted to one or a plurality of said low-speed transmission lines accommodated; 10

 said high-speed interface circuit pack accommodates at least a high-speed transmission line and is adapted to output/input a plurality of line signals each containing

a predetermined number of time slots transmitted to and received from said high-speed transmission line accommodated, a plurality of line signals input/output by other high-speed interface circuit packs, and a plurality of low-speed signals input/output by said ¹⁵
low-speed interface circuit packs, said high-speed interface circuit pack including a time slot assignment section having a first time slot assignment function between a plurality of line signals received from the said high-speed interface circuit packs on the one hand and the output low-speed signal on the other hand, and a second time slot assignment function between a plurality of line signals input from other high-speed interface circuit packs and ¹⁶ transmitted to the high-speed transmission line accommodated on the one hand and the input low-speed signal on the other hand;

said add/drop multiplex circuit pack is adapted to output/input a plurality of line signals input/output by each of said high-speed interface circuit packs and a low-speed signal containing one or a plurality of time slots input/output by each of the low-speed interface circuit packs, said add/drop multiplex circuit pack including a time slot section having ^A the time slot interchange function between a plurality of line signals and a ^M plurality of low-speed signals, and a line switch section having a first line switch function for switching the line signal to be processed by said time slot ~~interchange~~ section and a ²⁹ second line switch function for switching the time slots of the line signal to be processed by said time slot ~~interchange~~ section using the time slot interchange function of said time ³¹ slot ~~interchange~~ section; ³²

said connecting circuit pack is adapted to input/output the low-speed signal input/output by the high-speed interface circuit pack as a low-speed signal input/output by another high-speed interface circuit pack; and

in a use mode of requiring ^{the} a time slot assignment function and a time slot ³⁶ interchange function, a plurality of high-speed interface circuit packs and a plurality of ^{the} low-speed interface circuit packs are connected to each other through ^{the} said add/drop ^{the} multiplex circuit pack, and

the time slot assignment section of said high-speed interface circuit packs has the ⁴⁰ add/drop multiplex function of converting the line signals transmitted to and received

from the high-speed transmission line into a plurality of low-speed signals directly output/input, ~~the connecting circuit pack in the first mode is replaced by an add/drop multiplex circuit pack~~, and the high-speed interface pack and the low-speed interface circuit pack are connected to the add/drop multiplex circuit pack in such a manner that a plurality of low-speed signals input/output by a plurality of high-speed interface circuit packs are output/input by said add/drop multiplex circuit pack as line signals output/input by a plurality of high-speed interface circuit packs, and the low-speed signals input/output by the add/drop multiplex circuit pack are output/input by the low-speed interface circuit pack as output/input low-speed signals.

34. Canceled.